



September 2026 *CHAPEL NEWS*

We at Lutheran Chapel Church are called by God to PROCLAIM Christ as Lord and Savior, to SEEK and to INVITE the unchurched into the fellowship of faith: to SERVE God and to NURTURE one another's faith and spiritual growth by being a loving, caring and compassionate community of believers.

RALLY DAY, WHY SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Know your why! Our risen Jesus commands: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you**. And behold, I AM with you always to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus commands His Word be taught to His people, from Genesis to Revelation; this is a gift for our whole life. Martin Luther risked his life to translate the Bible into everyday language. He wanted people to read it themselves rather than follow popes, priests, and theologians blindly. This is not to say that popes, priests and theologians are bad teachers – they can be quite good teachers as they **serve** God's people but anyone who has studied history will notice there have been times of abuse and false teaching, right? So read it for yourself.

Yet we do not have to read and study alone. **Our Father in Heaven calls us into community and small group Bible studies where we study together, pray for one another, and share the journey of life with one another. That is a beautiful gift.** There will be times you may not agree about something. Hash it out in love. There will be times you don't want to go. Show up out of love for God and love for your neighbor. There will be times you don't feel like you are learning anything. That is ok. Write down questions. Be still and meditate a little more. The Holy Spirit will work to guide you to receive the gifts He wants to give through the Word – the promise "(my Word) shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).

On **Sunday, September 13**, there will be a simple breakfast and rally day for our Sunday School. All are invited to gather in the fellowship hall at 9:00 am for food, fellowship and prayer before we begin our studies this fall. If you do not currently have a class, please look at the opportunities below. Try a study. Bring your Bible (or Bible app!) and have a way to take notes to claim your own learning. If you currently attend a class, "do the work of an evangelist" and invite someone from among our fellowship or from your family, friends, or neighbors to come.

Chapel Class – The focus of God's Word is the Epistle to the Hebrews and several Prophets this fall. Hebrews is a crucial text linking the practices of the Torah to their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. They meet in the Memorial Chapel and are led by Jason Sanders.

Fellowship Class – The focus from God's Word are the books of Joshua, Judges and Ruth. This will be a challenging survey of stories of the Conquest when God's people are brought into the Promised Land. They meet in the educational wing and are led by Terry Ratchford.

Youth Class – The focus from God's Word is a biblical survey called "The Story", that presents major parts of the Bible as a single, unified narrative. They meet in the youth room and are led by Amy Brown and Elyse Hoffman.

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sundays

8:00 am ~ Morning Prayer
8:30 am ~ Fellowship & Coffee
9:00 am ~ Sunday School
& Bible Study
10:00 am ~ Worship

Sunday Worship Service is streamed live for those unable to attend in person.

Wednesdays

6:00 ~ Suffrages & the Chosen

Joy Class – The focus from God's Word is the Epistle to the Romans this fall. This is the Apostle Paul's great work to the capital of the Roman Empire about the good news of Jesus Christ. They meet in the church library and are led by Gene Weaver.

Story of Salvation Bible Study – This is a weekly Bible study based on the Story of Salvation lesson. The Lutheran hermeneutic – Christ in the Word, Law and Gospel, and the plain sense meaning are explored here. The study is posted on the church Facebook Page and printed copies are in the God's Love Is Free racks.

Let us receive the gift of God's Word Sunday by Sunday both in Bible study and in the gift of Word and Sacrament at the Services. Come and see.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Michael
Pastor Michael



REVENUE AND EXPENSE SUMMARY

July 2026	Actual	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Over/ (Under)
Receipts	\$28,797	\$181,792	\$217,000	\$35,208
Expenses	\$26,811	\$197,933	\$216,596	\$18,663
Net Gain / (Loss)	\$1,986	\$(16,141)	\$404	\$16,545

COUNCIL MINUTES JULY

Activities Director Report

Brit Borders was introduced to the Council.

- Brit reviewed her proposal and vision for the coming year. She explained that her focus during her first 90 days has been learning what is currently happening within the congregation before moving forward with new initiatives. Brit emphasized the need for a more detailed church calendar and suggested maintaining a large, visible calendar that everyone can reference to better coordinate church activities.
- She has already begun creating flyers and promotional videos and expressed interest in producing a "Come to Worship" video. David Zibell suggested including a weekly update from Brit in the church bulletin highlighting upcoming activities.
- Brit shared that before focusing on events, the church must first "build the tree before producing the fruit." She plans to spend the next six months building a strong foundation through communication, organization, and planning. To accomplish this, she needs a clear vision and an established budget.

Council discussed that while there is currently no separate written budget for the Activities Director, each committee has its own budget and the General Fund can assist with activities as needed. The first priority is for each committee to provide Brit with information about their ministries and planned activities. August will be dedicated to gathering this information. Brit will be available at the church to meet with committee members. Her contact information will be published in the bulletin, newsletter, and phone tree.

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Pastor's Report

Pastor Comer reported that average attendance at the early service has been approximately eight people. The Executive Team approved extending this service trial period through the end of September in order to better evaluate participation once school resumes. A motion was made to discontinue the Myers' music services at the end of August. The motion did not carry. The matter will be reviewed again in September.

Council Vacancy

Seth Myers has resigned from the Church Council, creating a vacancy. Others have expressed interest in serving the remainder of Seth's term. Robert Andrews will contact them.

Budget Discussion

Robert Andrews reviewed the proposed 2026–2027 budgets. A \$7,000 donation has been given to the Property Committee. The Memorial Committee will be asked to review existing memorial funds to determine how the monies are designated and whether any undesignated funds may be redirected for other church needs.

Property Committee

- The Property Committee will award the painting project to PME for **\$4,440**.
- A motion was approved to make repairs to replace boards in the Family Life Center HVAC system were presented at a cost of **\$6,297.50**. Pastor Comer advised that the Gaston Community Foundation fund may be available to help cover these repairs.
- The cost to recut the bamboo is **\$650** each time and will become an ongoing maintenance expense.

Financial Update

Jason Sanders suggested presenting a mid-year financial update ("Temple Talk") to the congregation to provide transparency regarding the church's financial status. The council also discussed moving more funds into the General Fund rather than allocating large amounts directly to committee budgets. This would allow money to be distributed where and when it is most needed while still making funds available to committees upon request. Several committee budget requests are still outstanding.

Communications

Matt Hoffman will coordinate with Susan and others to ensure Brit's contact information is included in the newsletter, bulletin, and phone tree so members know how to submit announcements and ministry information. David Zibell also suggested that the Council President's email address be included in the bulletin and newsletter. Council requested that Scott Moon establish a dedicated church email account for the Council President to provide continuity from year to year.

Other Business

Cathy Robinson requested that the dedication of the cedar chest be held on **August 9, 2026**. Robert discussed the future possibility of hiring a Church Administrator.

Christian Education

Pam Overcash is working to reactivate the committee. Jenny Williamson requested to serve on the committee.

Property

Scott is stepping down as committee chair at the end of the year and is working to identify a replacement.

Evangelism

The clothing giveaway is expected to open within the next three weeks. The committee is also working with Worship & Music on the Homecoming/Friend Sunday event.

Worship & Music

Working jointly with Evangelism on Homecoming/Friend Sunday.

Digital Ministry & Communications

- Purchased the Adobe Nonprofit plan for **\$15 annually** per user for up to 10 users.
- Streaming system repairs are underway.
- Submitted the 2027 committee budget to Council.

Brit Borders - Director of Activities
activities@lutheranchapelchurch.org

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve and support what God is doing through this ministry. Everyone is welcome to reach out regarding ministry events. I'd love to hear what you all have planned!

Ministry event leaders, please feel free to schedule an appointment with me on Mondays or Tuesdays if you need assistance with upcoming planning and preparation for LCC events. Please allow 1-2 business days for me to respond if you don't hear from me immediately. Thank you in advance for your grace, patience, and understanding.

*Special Regards,
Brit*



Top Golf Event was awesome! Fun, Food, and Faith in the community!

Upcoming EVENTS



LCC Movie Night is happening **September 19, 2026!** This night is for **everyone!** We're opening the doors and inviting our **community to come be a part of the fun, fellowship, and movie night experience.** Bring your family, invite friends, and come enjoy a night together! ❤️

OWLS
(Older Wiser LutheranS)

We hope you'll join us for our next
OWL-standing time of fellowship!

Thursday, September 17 at 11:00 am

Dino's Italian Pizzeria

610 Gastonia Hwy, Bessemer City, NC



Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Esther Circle will meet on
Monday, September 14 at 10:00 am
in the Fellowship Hall.

Rebecca Circle will meet on
Monday, September 14 at 5:00 pm
3705 St. Regis Dr., Gastonia
Hosted by Ann Edwards



HOMEcoming SUNDAY / INVITE A FRIEND

The Worship & Music and Outreach teams invite you to join Homecoming/Friend Sunday on **Sunday, September 27**. Lunch will follow the worship service and we invite you to bring a dish to share.



SPEAKER CAITLYN REESE KILLIAN

The Esther Circle at Lutheran Chapel Church invites all ladies of the church and their guests to join us for our **October 5th meeting at 10:00 am**. We are honored to welcome Caitlin Reese Killian as our guest speaker, as she shares her inspiring cancer journey, faith, and message of hope and perseverance.

In November 2019, at the age of 29, Caitlin was diagnosed with Stage 3 triple-negative breast cancer. Despite facing a difficult diagnosis and treatment journey, including a double mastectomy, Caitlin has continued to inspire others through her faith and positive outlook. A graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne University and former elementary music teacher, she now works part-time and hosts the "Goodness and Grace" podcast.

Please call the church office or Judy Anton at **704-867-1309** by **September 27** if you plan to attend. Be sure to let us know how many will be attending with you so we can plan accordingly.



KICK OFF BREAKFAST

Please join us for Rally Day on **Sunday, September 13th at 9:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall, as we gather for fellowship breakfast to “kick-off” a new Sunday School year.



SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

The Social Ministry Committee would like to sincerely thank our congregational family for your generous donations, which help provide children in our area with school supplies. The final total given was \$2,787.00. The supplies were given to Woodhill Elementary School and with the help of teachers, school counselors, and social workers, children will receive needed supplies. The staff at Woodhill were very grateful for our donations to their students.

Supplies purchased for Woodhill Elementary School

360 Dry Erase White Boards with Erasers

450 Headphones

478 Composition Notebooks

441 Expo Dry Erase Markers

300 Packs Crayola Crayons

600 Glue Sticks

3000 Ticonderoga No. 2 Pencils

72 Pencil Pouches

90 Mesh Zipper Pouches

48 Magnetic Clips

128 Plastic Rulers

60 Kleenex Boxes

1200 Zip Ties to secure info to book bags

1800 Sheets of Graph Paper

300 Highlighters

We pray this will help every child start the school year prepared, confident, and with the same opportunities as other students. This could be the encouragement they need to jumpstart a successful and fun school year. We know this will make a difference in the lives of these children, and we are so grateful for your love and support.



Thank you again for all that you do for our community and for families in need!



This Month's Recipient



House of Mercy
TRANSFORMING LIVES

September's love offering will be donated to House of Mercy. The mission of House of Mercy is to provide care to persons living with advanced AIDS. They offers residential accommodations for individual experiencing housing insecurity or financial hardship. An environment of complete acceptance and love is provided in a home-like setting. House of Mercy delivers comprehensive residential support, ensuring residents receive structured nutrition, coordinated healthcare appointments, and professional medication management. The program offers individuals the opportunity to deal with spiritual issues and encourages family reconciliation when families are in disarray.

Without our donations, this ministry could not continue to exist because 80% of their operating budget comes from contributions. We ask that you please remember this ministry in your prayers and monetary offerings.

Thank you,

Social Ministry Committee

DEAR LORD,

Please help my child to
grow in wisdom, and in
stature, and in favor with
you and others this year.

LUKE 2:52



THANK YOU



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all your prayers, texts, cards and phone calls during my surgery. It is so wonderful to have a loving and caring church family. Keep up those prayers as I go thru the process of healing. We are blessed to be a part of the Lutheran Chapel Church.

Blessings,
Keith



Contribution amount:
\$740.00

Lutheran Services Carolinas greatly appreciates your contribution. Last year LSC empowered over 6,400 people of all ages and walk of life across the Carolinas. With your help, we are able to ensure older adults have access to vibrant, quality housing, healthcare and support services; children in crisis find comfort and healing and refugees are welcomed to our communities. Thank you for partnering with us in this important work.

Yours in Christ,
Ted W Goins Jr., President



Contribution amount:
\$557.00

We are grateful to Lutheran Chapel Church for your generous gift. Your support is truly appreciated and plays a crucial role in helping Habitat continue partnering with more families throughout our community. Lutheran Chapel Church is creating meaningful change, offering families the chance to thrive in spaces that provide warmth, security and hope for the future. Your gift is a lifeline for those facing housing challenges.

Warmest regards,
Laura Belcher, President & CEO



This Summer we enjoyed the musical offerings of several solo artists. It was such a thrill to praise God through their music.

We give you a special Thanks for your offering.



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Assistant Minister	Acolyte	Lector	Crucifer	First Aid
September 6	Sylvia Fogle	Cameron Bell	Terry Ratchford	Maddie Potter	Gene Weaver
September 13	Adam DeLuca	Renwick Royston	Amy Brown	Hunter Clark	Matt Hoffman
September 20	Noah Comer	Luke Hoffman	Janie Peak	Bram Comer	Steve Clark
September 27	Norman Overcash	Elena Hoffman	Kailey Perkins	Corbin Brown	Crown Hoffman
Council Members of the Month: Debi Jean Wankel and Jenny Williamson					

*** If you have a conflict with your scheduled Sunday, please find a replacement and contact the church office. ***

SEPTEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS

Cost of flowers is **\$58.50**.

*Please be sure to note your payment is for **Altar Flowers**.*



September 6	Given by Debra and Henry Hoffman in honor of their 52nd Wedding Anniversary.
September 13	Given by Pat Lindler in memory of Gary Lindler.
September 20	Given by Delana and Steve Clark to the Glory of God and their 55th Wedding Anniversary.
September 27	In honor of September Birthdays for Melissa Darrow on the 35th, Zack Lentz on the 22nd, and Ann Marie on the 30th.

What School did Ice cream go to?
"Sunday School"



Celebrating our **MEMBERS**



BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

Ervin Hoffman	3
Chris Lowe	4
Katherine Sanders	6
Mike Bell	7
Matt Hoffman	7
Ben Carpenter	8
Amy Lloyd	8
Leigh Woody	8
Amy Brown	9
Caroline Comer	11
Blair Thornburg	12
Sarah Catherine Davis	15
Claudia Zibell	17
Lisa Burch	20
Alex Berghello, Jr.	21
Zac Lentz	22
Wesley Baker	23
Craig Thornburg	24
Bram Comer	25
Helaina Robinson	27
Alfred Lineberger	28
Morgan Nieto-Carpenter	28
Margaret Hovis	29
Charlotte Elkin	30
Ann Marie Lentz	30

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

Keith & Teresa Yarborough	1
Henry & Debra Hoffman	7
Steve & Delana Clark	18
David & Claudia Zibell	21
Barry & Sandra Martin	26
Jason & Katherine Sanders	26
Rick & Janie Peak	29

God's Blessings on Your Birthday

Numbers 6:24-26

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

As you celebrate your special day, remember that God's presence is a continual source of light in your life. His blessings are like rays of sunshine, bringing peace and grace into every new year you face.



SEND A NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS



George Cashion
515 S. Generals Blvd.
Room #506
Lincolnton, NC 28093

Betty Little
Covenant Village
1351 Robinwood Rd.
Apt. A-205
Gastonia, NC 28054

Barbara & Carlton Peacock
151 E Dallas Hwy
Apt. 616
Stanley, NC 28164

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please let the office know so that we can enter it into the database.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Work-day 5:30 Chapel Ringers (S) 6:00 Pickup Basketball (FLC)	2 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Suffrages & Chosen (C)	3 8:30 Preschool	4 Office Closed 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study	5 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
6 8:00 Morning Prayer 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School/Bible Study 10:00 Worship (S) 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 4-6 Life in Christ (FH,C) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	7 8:30 Preschool	8 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Work-day 5:30 Chapel Ringers (S) 6:00 Pickup Basketball (FLC)	9 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Suffrages & Chosen (C)	10 8:30 Preschool	11 Office Closed 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study	12 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH) 9-3 Choir Workshop (FH)
13 8:00 Morning Prayer 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Rally Day Sunday School/Bible Study 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 10:00 Worship (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	14 8:30 Preschool	15 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Work-day 5:30 Chapel Ringers (S) 6:00 Pickup Basketball (FLC) October Newsletter Articles Due	16 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Suffrages & Chosen (C)	17 8:30 Preschool 11:00 OWL's	18 Office Closed 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study	19 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
20 8:00 Morning Prayer 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School/Bible Study 10:00 Worship (S) 11:00 Council (C) 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 4-6 Life in Christ (FH,C) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	21 8:30 Preschool	22 8:30 Preschool 10:00 Clothing Closet Work-day 5:30 Chapel Ringers (S) 6:00 Pickup Basketball (FLC)	23 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Suffrages & Chosen (C)	24 8:30 Preschool	25 Office Closed 9:00 Men's Community Bible Study	26 9:30 Hungry Peeps (FH)
27 8:00 Morning Prayer 8:30 Fellowship (FH) 9:00 Sunday School/Bible Study 10:00 Homecoming/Friend Worship (S) 11:00 Fellowship Meal 11:30 Chancel Choir (S) 8:00 Faith Group (FH)	28 8:30 Preschool	29 8:30 Preschool 5:30 Chapel Ringers (S) 6:00 Pickup Basketball (FLC)	30 8:30 Preschool 6:00 Suffrages & Chosen (C)	 HELLO <i>September</i>		

Lutheran Chapel Church
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Non Profit Organization
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Gastonia, NC
Permit #232

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Preschool: 704-864-5136
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CHAPEL NEWS

September 2026

